

In the Claims:

1. (Previously Amended) A data transfer network comprising: a trivial file transfer protocol server connected to transfer data to a series of client apparatus connected to the network and when data is to be transferred, one of the clients is designated the master client and the speed of requests for data from said master client determines the rate of transfer of the data to all of the clients wherein the rate of transfer of data to each client when elected the master client is monitored and compared with a predetermined transfer rate and if, from the comparison, it is identified that the transfer rate is longer than the predetermined data transfer rate, the trivial file transfer protocol server elects another client which is available as master client.
2. (Previously Amended) A data transfer network according to claim 1 wherein said trivial file transfer protocol server elects a client as master client which has shown the fastest rate of transfer from the series of clients.
3. (Previously Amended) A data transfer network according to claim 1 wherein the predetermined transfer rate is preset as an optimal time for the transfer of a certain amount of data.
4. (Previously Amended) A data transfer network according to claim 1 wherein the master client is monitored for a set period of time to allow comparison with the pre-determined transfer rate.
5. (Previously Amended) A data transfer network according to claim 1 wherein the transfer rate for each of the clients, when elected as master client, is recorded over a period of time and stored in a database of transfer rates, said server using the database so that on each occasion said server elects as master client the client which shows the fastest rate of transfer in the database.

6. (Previously Amended) A data transfer network according to claim 5 wherein if the first client which said server attempts to use as master client is not available, said server attempts to elect a client from said database based on an ascending order of client transfer rates.

7. (Previously Amended) A data transfer network according to claim 5 wherein said database is updated on each occasion when a client is selected as master client.

8. (Currently Canceled) A data transfer network comprising: a trivial file transfer protocol server connected to transfer data to a series of client apparatuses connected to the network and when data is to be transferred, one of the clients is designated as the master client and the speed of requests for data from said master client determines the rate of transfer of the data to all of the clients wherein if one or more clients is disabled and cannot act as a master client to receive data, this is identified by said trivial file transfer protocol server by monitoring network management messages which identify the disablement or unavailability of the client and whereupon said trivial file transfer protocol server does not attempt to elect the said client as master client.

9. (Currently Canceled) A data transfer network according to claim 8 wherein said network includes internet control message protocol servers and monitors the operation of the said servers to identify those clients which are unavailable or disabled, and until it identifies that the said client is live once more, will not attempt to elect that client as the master client.